Policy # S - 8

POLICY: ADMISSION POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville to be in compliance with the Equal Employment Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and all other legislation, all as amended to provide equal opportunity for all applicants to the Nursing Program without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, non-job related handicap, or age.

All applicants must be able to complete the essential functions of a student nurse with or without reasonable accommodation and must be eligible for employment as a registered nurse following graduation. Act 34 and 151 clearances, and a Federal Criminal History Background Check are required.

It is anticipated that students wishing to enroll in the nursing program may come from a variety of backgrounds and academic preparation. In order to accommodate a wide variety of applicants either the scores from the SAT or the ACT Examination may be submitted - whichever is most current and applicable for the individual student.

Traditional students
Prospective students who have recently graduated from high school will be asked to submit their SAT/ACT scores as the primary admission test criteria. Scores of 1000 or higher are preferable. Students must pass the entrance placement exams in math and English and display readiness for MATH 0031/MATH 0110 and ENGL 101. If available, scores from SAT will be utilized to determine English placement. A score of 450 is needed to place into English 101.

Non-traditional students
Prospective students who do not have recent SAT/ACT scores, recent college transcripts or other evidence of past secondary accomplishments may need to take courses to prepare them for admission, i.e. Math 29, Math 30 and/or English 100. Entrance placement exams are given in Math and English.

Transfer Students
Students wishing to transfer from within the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, from within the larger University of Pittsburgh system or another college or university have already met the basic university admission criteria. Their potential for successful academic work has been established. Their QPA will be the primary data used to determine their acceptance for transfer to UPT. QPA scores of 2.75 and above are preferable for admission into the nursing program.
Enrolled pre-nursing students seeking admission to the nursing program will be required to submit:

A. **A Nursing Program Application form**
   
   This form includes a request for a written essay briefly describing the reasons he/she is selecting nursing as a career and the UPT nursing program as an educational program. Essays are evaluated upon the basis of congruence with the program’s philosophy.

B. **3 letters of recommendation**
   
   The candidate must submit three recommendation forms completed by someone other than a family member. Suggested references include nurses, employers, professional colleagues, physicians, former teachers, clergy and other respected citizens. Applicants currently or previously enrolled in another nursing program are required to obtain a recommendation from the dean/director of that program. Applicants currently taking pre-nursing support classes are highly encouraged to obtain a letter of recommendation from an instructor/professor of those classes.

C. **Pre-Nursing Students**
   
   Students who do not meet these additional requirements of the nursing program, but meet the standards of being accepted into the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, will be accepted into the pre-nursing program that has a prescribed set of courses for students to complete. To be considered for acceptance into the nursing program from the pre-nursing program students must complete a nursing application (an essay and three letters of reference) and not have a grade below a “C” in any of their college courses.

**Student Selection**

Upon receiving a completed application, references and official transcripts, the Nursing Program Admission Selection Committee selects the students for admission who best meet the qualifications and standards of the program.

OR

A. **New Direct Students from High School (adopted February, 2016)**
   
   Students admitted to our two-year program need to meet the requirements for admission to the university and the following additional requirements:

   Successful completion of a minimum of 16 high school or beyond units including:
   
   - 4 units in English
   - 2 units in Mathematics (1 must be in Algebra)
   - 3 units in Social Science
   - 1 unit in Biology with a related laboratory
Prospective students will be admitted directly with a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 2.75 and a minimum combined SAT score of 1000 (math and critical reading), or a minimum composite ACT score of 21. Students must also place into ENGL 101 and MATH 0031/MATH 0110.

B. Direct Transfer Students

Students admitted to our two-year program need to meet the requirements for admission to the university and the following additional requirements:

Successful completion of a minimum of 16 high school or beyond units including:

- 4 units in English
- 2 units in Mathematics (1 unit must be in Algebra
- 3 units in Social Science
- 1 unit in Biology with a related laboratory
- 1 unit in Chemistry with a related laboratory
- 5 units academic electives

Or the completion of similar units at the collegiate level at a “C” or above.

Students transferring from another college or university must have completed a minimum of 12 college-level credits with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75. Students must also place into ENGL 101 and MATH 0031/MATH 0110 or transfer equivalent course credit from another college or university.

All Applicants

A. Health examination form**

Prior to enrollment, in compliance with the regulations of the State Board of Nursing, students must satisfactorily complete a physical exam which includes laboratory tests, drug screening and documentation of current immunizations. Any student who cannot perform the essential functions of a student nurse with or without reasonable accommodation cannot be enrolled. The Health Examination form includes documentation of all necessary immunizations including a PPD, varicella and rubella titers, rubeola screen, tetanus booster and Hepatitis series. Students will also be required to obtain an annual influenza vaccine prior to 10/31 each year in order to meet clinical agency requirements.
B. Drug Testing Clearances **

C. Criminal History Clearances
   All applicants must provide recent (defined as within 6 months of date of intended enrollment) criminal history information forms. All forms must be on file prior to enrollment.
   1. Pennsylvania Child Abuse Registry (Act 151)
   2. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (Act 34)
   3. Federal Criminal History Background Check (FBI fingerprinting)

D. Proof of CPR training
   All students must have current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification (Basic Life Support for the Health Care Provider – including infant and child). Current Certification must be from the American Heart Association and be maintained throughout the extent of the program.

** The State Board of Nursing may refuse, suspend or revoke any license in any case where the Board shall find that the applicant:

- Has been convicted or has pleaded guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere or has been found guilty by a judge or jury of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or has received probation without verdict, disposition in lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition in the disposition of felony charges, in the courts of this Commonwealth, the United States, or any other state, territory or country;

- Has committed fraud or deceit in securing his or her admission to the practice of nursing or to nursing school;

- Is unable to practice professional nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental or physical illness or condition or physiological or psychological dependence upon alcohol, hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination, so long as such dependence shall continue.

For a complete list of reasons why the State Board may refuse a professional nursing license to an applicant, please see section 14 of the Professional Nursing Law, 63 P.S. &224. Applicants for the Nursing Program who are associated with any of these issues are highly encouraged to contact the State Board before entering the program to determine if their level of involvement would prohibit their application for licensure upon graduation from the Nursing Program.